

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10159 121808Z

64

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5389

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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DEPT PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, OECD, BE

SUBJECT: PROGRESS OF BELGIAN RATIFICATION OF OECD FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FUND

REF BRUSSELS 6453 AND 8080

1. MINFIN COUNSELOR JACQUES VAN YPERSELE TOLD EMBOFF ON NOV 12 THAT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RPT NOT YET SUBMITTED SUPPORT FUND LEGISLATION TO THE HOUSE (IT WAS PASSED BY SENATE LAST JUNE). DELAY IS DUE TO TIME NEEDED FOR INCORPORATION OF SUGGESTED US AND UK CHANGES IN DUTCH LANGUAGE VERSION AND ITS FINAL APPROVAL BY ALL OECD MEMBERS.

2. VAN YPERSELE SAID THAT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT RELUCTANT TO SUBMIT FRENCH VERSION ONLY TO HOUSE. IT FEARS LINGUISTIC COMPLAINTS FROM FLEMINGS, SOME OF WHOM COULD ASK PUBLICLY WHY NETHERLANDS PARLIAMENT ABLE TO REVIEW LEGISLATION IN DUTCH, BUT THEY COULD NOT.

3. VAN YPERSELE NEVERTHELESS HOPEFUL THAT LEGISLATION CAN BE SUBMITTED TO RESPONSIBLE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONS BEFORE END OF
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 10159 121808Z

THIS YEAR. AT THAT POINT, THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER

DELAY IF COMMISSIONS AND FULL HOUSE ARE OCCUPIED WITH GOVERNMENT'S
CONTROVERSIAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM. VAN YPERSELE SEES NO
SIGNIFICANT PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION TO SUPPORT FUND, HOWEVER,
AND BELIEVES THAT IT WILL PASS EASILY ONCE PROCEDURAL ROADBLOCKS
ARE OVERCOME. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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